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By   
Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. 100794-11749 (FUJR 18.961)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor: Tetsuaki WAKABAYASHI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/942,314

Filed: August 29, 2001

Title: **SWITCHING APPARATUS, COMMUNICATION APPARATUS...**

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2662

January 10, 2002 **RECEIVED**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**FEB 04 2002**  
**Technology Center 2600**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

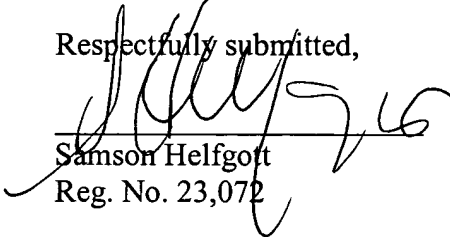
As these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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**STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 1

Application No. : 09/942,314  
Filing Date : AUGUST 29, 2001  
First Named Inventor: T. WAKABAYASHI  
Group Art Unit : 2662  
Examiner Name :  
Attorney Docket No. : FUJR 18.961(100794-11749)

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | U.S. Patent Document | Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup> | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) | Country | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document   | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|---------|---|--|---|
|                   |                       | 10-233781   | JP      | HITACHI LTD<br>NIPPON TELEGR &<br>TELEPH<br>CORP<NTT> NEC<br>CORP FUJITSU<br>LTD OKI<br>ELECTRIC IND CO | 09/02/1998                                       |   |
|                   |                       | 8-79253   | JP      | FUJITSU LTD   | 03/22/1996                                       |   |
|                   |                       | 8-509339  | JP      | WASHINGTON<br>UNIVERSITY  | 10/01/1996                                       |   |
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<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1<sup>6</sup> if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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